

DISTANCE LEARNING

READ-A-BOOK PROGRAM

This distance learning self-study program allows early childhood professionals to earn training credit hours by reading children's literature and books on early childhood education and child development. The Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Division of Child Care and Development collaborated with the Library of Virginia to place sets of books in each of the 350 public libraries across Virginia.

This initial phase of the Read-A-Book Program focuses on the importance of incorporating children's literature across the curriculum, reading to and with young children daily, understanding early brain development, fostering language and literacy development, and communicating successfully with young children.

This program currently offers *two book report* options for obtaining training credit hours. You are encouraged to choose one or both to receive credit. You may read & report on more than one book, and be eligible to receive training credit hours for each new book read and book report submitted to VDSS for grading. All book report materials are free. A \$10.00 processing fee will be charged when you submit materials for grading. Do not send your money until you submit your materials for grading.

Option One: Reading Children's Literature Books with Children

Option One asks you to read at least **two** children's literature books to your children and then develop a book report for each book that describes the activities and projects you developed to support the story or theme of the book. You may choose from the infant and toddler story books placed in each public library in Virginia or you may choose to use two of your own favorite children's books.

Option Two: Reading Professional Books

Option Two asks you to choose to read one of the professional books listed in the Read-A-Book Program booklet, and then complete the Professional Development Book Report developed for each book. Each Virginia public library has at least one copy of the professional development books listed in the Read-A-Book Program booklet.

To Participate

Interested individuals should request a copy of the Read-A-Book Program booklet from VDSS or access assessment materials online at: <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/readbook.cgi>. The booklet includes book lists, instructions; and all forms required to participate in Option 1, and the list of professional development books and special instructions to participate in Option 2. A complete listing of Virginia Public Library locations throughout the Commonwealth is also included in the Read-A-Book Program Booklet. Librarians will not have the book report materials; you must contact VDSS by mail or email or obtain the materials online (address listed above).

Read-A-Book Program materials may be requested electronically at: read.a.book@dss.virginia.gov or by mail (using the form below). If you request materials by email, please state how you would like to receive the program booklet, either electronically or by mail.

Cut Out or Photocopy

Read-A-Book Program Booklet Request Form

Mailing Address:

Read-A-Book Program
Division of Child Care and Development
Virginia Department of Social Services
7 North 8th Street, 6th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219-3301

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email address: _____

DISTANCE LEARNING

VIDEO SERIES

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) currently offers two video-based training programs with study guides and testing materials. These programs are self-paced and child care professionals may earn four, six, or eight hours of training credit upon successful completion of the assessment materials.

To Participate

Child care professionals borrow the videotapes and receive copies of the study guides and test materials from one of the eight regional licensing offices listed below. There is no cost for the study guides or testing materials. A ten dollar (\$10.00) processing fee per person is charged when submitting the completed assessments for grading.

To apply to receive credit for participation in either video series, each individual must complete the assessment materials for each program. Individuals must receive a passing grade to be awarded training credit hours. Detailed instructions for participation are included with each study guide. Please allow 3-4 months for VDSS to process test materials.

1 - DSS 101 - The Whole Child - A Caregiver's Guide to the First Five Years (TWC) is a video series production developed by WTVS Detroit and the Merrill-Palmer Institute at Wayne State University in 1998. It is based on the textbook of the same name written by Joanne Hendrick, Professor of Early Childhood Education Emerita at the University of Oklahoma.

2 - The Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers (PITC) was developed by WestEd and the California Department of Education. A team of experts in child development, child care, adult education, and print and video production was assembled to work with national and state advisors to create this video production. The goal of the program was to develop meaningful training materials based on sound principles and proven practices. The materials were developed for both center-based and family day home providers and focus on caring for infants and toddlers.

To reserve the videotapes for participation in either video series training program, please call your regional licensing office listed below.

Central Region: 804-662-9432
 Fairfax Area: 703-934-1505
 Eastern Region: 757-491-3953
 Verona Area: 540-332-2330
 Peninsula Area: 757-247-8020
 Piedmont Region: 540-857-7971
 Northern Region: 540-347-6345
 Abingdon Area: 276-676-5655

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ONLINE COURSE

An online course called, Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognizing, Reporting, and Responding for Educators, is now available for child care providers. Originally, it was developed by VDSS with VISSTA and the Department of Education for teacher licensure. Successful completion of this course provides 2 hours of training credit. The course may be accessed at www.vcu.edu/vissta/training/va_teachers and all are welcome to take this course.

NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PLAYGROUND SAFETY (NPPS) ONLINE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NPPS offers online courses that target the needs of child care providers. Listed below are two options.

Early Childhood Outdoor Play Inspectors Program - an interactive online course that gives child care providers the knowledge and understanding needed to inspect the outdoor play area for safety. Through pictures, discussion, readings, and assignments, providers will gain the experience needed to inspect the early childhood outdoor play environment.

- Length of Course – once coursework is begun, participants have up to four weeks to complete the course, which is self-paced
- Clock Hours – 12 hours
- CEUs – 1.2

Playground Supervision for Child Care Providers - an online course that gives child care providers the opportunity to learn supervision practices in an outdoor play environment. Through instructional videos, pictures, and written information, providers will learn new supervision techniques to implement in their facilities.

- Length of Course – once coursework is begun, participants have up to two weeks to complete the course, which is self-paced
- Clock Hours – 1 hour
- CEUs – .1

To register:

Visit <http://www.playgroundsafety.org/training/online.htm>

For more information:

Contact the National Program for Playground Safety as listed below.

www.playgroundsafety.org

Phone: (800) 554-PLAY (7529)

Fax: (319) 273-7308

Email: playground-safety@uni.edu